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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" அதுபற்றி தனியாக ஒரு கேள்வி போட்டால் நான் பதில் அளிக்கிறேன்."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" செஸ் பண்டிலிருந்து ஒதுக்கி வைத்த பூராப் பணத்தையும் இன்னும் செலவிடாமல் இருப்பதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" செஸ் பண்டு இருந்தாலும் அதை நல்ல வழியில் பயன் படுத்திக்கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்ற யோசனையிலேதான் சர்க்கார் இருந்துவந்து இருக்கிறது. சீக்கிரத்தில் செஸ் பண்டு பூராவையும் நல்ல வகையில் உபயோகப் படுத்திக்கொள்ள சர்க்கார் முன்வரும்."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Out of the 43 lakhs for loans stated by the Hon. Minister, has any part of the loans been recovered from the members?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think there is now the question of recovery of the loan."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" தென்னாற்காடு மாவட்டத்தில் நெசவாளர் ஐக்கிய நாணயச் சங்கத்திலிருந்தாலும் அதன் மூலம் உதவி பெறுவதற்கு எத்தனை தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் மனுச்செய்துகொண்டார்கள் ? எத்தனை தனிப்பட்டவர்களின் மனுக்கள் தள்ளுபடி செய்யப்பட்டன ? அப்படி அவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்காததற்கு பிரத்யேகமான காரணங்கள் இருந்தால் அவை என்னவென்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களால் கூறமுடியுமா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" இது பற்றி வேறு ஒரு கேள்வி போட்டால் பதிலளிக்க முடியும்."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" கடந்த இரண்டு வருஷங்களில் செஸ் நிதியிலிருந்து நமது ராஜ்யத்திற்கு இரண்டு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி யிருக்கிறார்கள். அதில் எவ்வளவு உபயோகப்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது ? இன்னும் பாக்கித் தொகை எவ்வளவு இருந்துகொண்டு இருக்கிறது. பாக்கி யிருக்கக்கூடிய தொகையிலிருந்து கூட்டுறவு இலாக்காவின் மூலம், கூட்டுறவு சொஸைட்டிகளுக்குப் பண உதவி செய்ய அது உபயோகப்படுத்தப்படுமா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" இதுபற்றி தனியாக ஒருகேள்வி போட்டால் நான் விபரமாகப் பதிலளிக்க முடியும்."

Medical mission to Agathi islands.

* 716 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to Question No. 567 answered on 7th May 1954, the achievements of the medical mission sent to Agathi island in the Laccadives group, Malabar?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A copy [a] of the detailed report [a] on the dysentery epidemic in Agathi and Kavarathy islands sent by the Assistant Surgeon on 11th September 1954 is placed on the table of the House."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the report shows that the epidemic broke out in the third week of January and subsided by the end of March and the medical help reached only by the end

[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 585—589 infra.

of March, that is, a day after the fair. May I know why when the epidemic was raging for the last two months, no help was sent to the place immediately? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the report about the dysentery in Agathi island came in the month of March. Immediately the medical officer who is in Kavarathy island was asked to proceed there. He could not reach the place at once as the wind was unfavourable and it took some time for him to reach there. As soon as he reached there, he took the necessary measures for controlling the epidemic."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The medical officer deputed was in a position to be in the island only for about five days, though the epidemic had taken a heavy toll of the lives of people there; he himself has stated that the islands of Agathi and Kavarathy were in the clutches of virulent diseases like small-pox, etc. The medical officer was helpless and could not render medical aid. Taking all these into consideration, he has recommended to the Government the establishment of a dispensary in the island permanently so that the forlorn islanders may be helped. Are the Government prepared to accept this recommendation? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the Government have under consideration a proposal to start a dispensary in the island."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Has this medical mission computed the number of deaths due to this attack of dysentery? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The statement laid on the table of the House gives the available information."

SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know whether the Government will expedite the establishment of good means of communications in these islands in view of the very sad experience we have had and in view of the helplessness of medical aid for want of easy means of communications and consequent large number of mortality? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Gentleman will know that the Governor also paid a visit to these islands and he has sent a note regarding the facilities for communications and this matter is under consideration."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, since the main reason for this epidemic is stated in the report to be that of malnutrition because, for six months of the season, the people in the islands have to go without foodgrains and another reason stated in the report is the bad condition of water. Considering these factors, will the Government consider the desirability of supplying sufficient foodgrains and good drinking water for the islanders? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the Collector of Malabar has sent on one occasion 44 bags of rice and also clothes for free distribution to the poor people there. He was again sending another consignment of rice, Sir."

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Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the report suggests that there must have been staggering deaths in the period of two months when the epidemic was virulent. On my perusal, there is no reference to casualty during this period. I wish to know whether it is an accidental omission or a deliberate hiding?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Probably, the medical officer who went there was not able to collect figures regarding mortality."

Sri A. APPU :—" Sir, the report of the medical officer shows that besides dysentery, there were other serious diseases in the island and the doctor says that he had no medicines with him. There is a general complaint that in the hospitals and dispensaries in the islands, sufficient stocks of medicines are not kept. Will the Government be pleased to send all sorts of medicines to these dispensaries?"

Mr. SPEAKER :—" All sorts of medicines?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, when a medical officer is posted, after a dispensary has been started there, the required medicines will be made available."

* 717 *Q.*—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the details of the report submitted by the doctors deputed to go into the prevalence of dysentery in the Laccadive Islands in March 1954; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of the report on the table of the House?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member may refer to the detailed report on the dysentery epidemic in Agathi and Kavarathy islands which has been placed on the table of the House in answer to the starred question No. 716 (answered on 15th February 1955)."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In the report placed on the table of the House, it is stated that the medical officer deputed had no medicines with him to treat the patients who were suffering from trachoma and other diseases of the eyes, bronchial asthma and other diseases of the respiratory system, diseases of the digestive system and deficiency diseases. May I know from the Hon. Minister why, when a medical officer was deputed to such a distant island where medicines are not procurable, he was not equipped with proper and necessary medicines for treatment of patients and may I also know from the Hon. Minister if any action was taken at least after the report was received by the Government?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, after the Medical Officer of Kavarathy was sent to the Agathi island, another Assistant Surgeon was sent by a special chartered ship with necessary medicines, staff, and everything."